UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1996/284
15 April 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN ABKHAZIA, GEORGIA

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of paragraph 13 of resolution 1036 (1996) of 12 January 1996, by which the Security Council requested me to report after three months from the date of the adoption of that resolution on all aspects of the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia, including the operations of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG). It is based on information available to the Secretariat up to 4 April 1996. My previous report was issued on 2 January 1996 (S/1996/5).

II. POLITICAL ASPECTS

2. The Georgian-Abkhaz peace process remains stalled. During the reporting period, the Russian Federation, in its capacity as facilitator, further intensified its efforts, in consultation with my Special Envoy, Ambassador Edouard Brunner, and his resident Deputy, Mr. Liviu Bota, with the aim of bringing the two sides closer to compromise solutions. In addition, several direct contacts between representatives of the two sides took place in Moscow.

3. My Special Envoy and his Deputy maintained close contact with the President of Georgia, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, and with the Abkhaz leader, Mr. Vladislav Ardzinba, as well as with the Georgian and Abkhaz representatives in Moscow. Both held numerous consultations with other political figures on the two sides, with the aim of creating an environment conducive to the acceptance of compromises. They also had bilateral consultations with the Russian facilitator in Paris on 24 and 25 January 1996 and in Moscow on 4 and 5 March 1996, where my Special Envoy held fruitful discussions with the Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation, Mr. Yevgeny Primakov, and other senior government officials. Furthermore, my Special Envoy and his Deputy continued to have regular consultations with senior representatives of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and, during his visit to Headquarters on 15 and 16 February 1996, I discussed the Georgian-Abkhaz peace process with the Secretary-General of OSCE, Mr. Wilhelm Höynck.

4. My Special Envoy had been planning to make a visit to the area and to Moscow in mid-March, but as he was indisposed at that time, I asked my Special Adviser, Mr. Ismat Kittani, to undertake this visit. Together with the Deputy Special Envoy he held consultations from 14 to 18 March 1996 with President Shevardnadze at Tbilisi, with Mr. Ardzinba at Sukhumi and with the Russian First Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. Pastukhov, in Moscow. The parties had before them a draft protocol (see S/1996/5, para. 40). Following Mr. Kittani's visit, he briefed me and my Special Envoy on his mission on 19 March 1996 at the United Nations Office at Geneva.

5. Both sides reaffirmed their desire for a political solution and their determination to continue the negotiation process until a comprehensive political settlement was achieved. Both expressed the wish that United Nations efforts be strengthened.

6. The key issue continues to be the future political status of Abkhazia. The Georgian side has elaborated proposals for the status of Abkhazia within the framework of a federal State and transmitted them to the Security Council on 5 March 1996 (S/1996/165). The Abkhaz side has presented an alternative version of the draft protocol referred to in paragraph 4 above which envisages that the "two sides shall enjoy equal rights" and would agree to live together in a "Federative Union".

7. There have been a number of significant political and other developments in the region that directly or indirectly affect the Georgian-Abkhaz peace process.

8. The Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) met in Moscow on 19 January 1996 and adopted, inter alia, two decisions regarding the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia (A/51/62-S/1996/74). These extended the mandate of the CIS peace-keeping force for three months, to 19 April 1996, and entrusted the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the Council of Ministers of Defence of CIS with the preparation, by 19 February 1996, of the draft of a new mandate for the CIS peace-keeping force on the basis of the Georgian proposals (see S/1996/5, para. 4), with the possible extension of its stationing in the conflict zone up to 19 July 1996. Subsequent consultations at the expert level among the CIS countries did not result in an agreement on a new mandate before the deadline of 19 February 1996.

9. At a meeting of the CIS Foreign Ministers' Council in Moscow on 2 April 1996, it again proved impossible to reach agreement on the continuation of the mandate of the CIS force. The Government of Georgia proposed that a new monitoring force be created to oversee previous CIS decisions concerning, inter alia, sanctions against Abkhazia. This was not, however, accepted. The Georgian side indicated that it did not want the CIS force to be withdrawn but, at the same time, did not want it to continue with its present mandate. The meeting decided to take note of the Government's position and to ask the Executive Secretary of CIS to continue to examine the issue and report to the Heads of State of CIS by 19 April. In the meantime, the CIS troops would remain.

10. The Abkhaz authorities had taken exception to the decisions of the Council of Heads of State of CIS in January. They stated that they would not recognize

a new mandate of the CIS peace-keeping force based on the Georgian proposals and that the current mandate could only be changed with the consent of the two parties.

11. The Georgian Parliament has ratified the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Good-Neighbourliness signed between the Republic of Georgia and the Russian Federation on 3 February 1994.

12. Several initiatives regarding peace and stability in the Caucasus have been put forward. Among them are the initiative of President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Federation on the "Great Caucasus", President Shevardnadze's proposals "For a Peaceful Caucasus" and the "Declaration on Peace, Security and Cooperation in the Caucasus Region", which was signed by the Presidents of Azerbaijan and Georgia during the former's visit to Tbilisi on 8 March 1996 (see A/51/89).

13. On 18 and 19 March 1996, President Shevardnadze paid an official visit to the Russian Federation. In the discussion on the situation in the Caucasus, Presidents Yeltsin and Shevardnadze agreed that the stabilization of the political situation and the strengthening of mutual trust were prerequisites for the restoration in the Caucasus of lasting peace and mutual security, economic recovery and the preservation of its unique natural heritage. The achievement of these goals required, first of all, the concerted efforts of the Russian Federation and Georgia and those of the other countries of Trans-caucasia with the assistance of other interested States and international organizations. The Presidents reaffirmed their commitment to the principles of the territorial integrity of States and the inviolability of existing borders and strongly condemned separatism and terrorism in all their aspects.

14. Regarding the conflict in Abkhazia, both Presidents expressed their conviction that all the possibilities for settling the conflict through peaceful political means had not yet been exhausted and that there was no reasonable alternative to settling the conflict in this manner. They considered that the negotiations that were being held under United Nations auspices, with the assistance of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and with the Russian Federation acting as facilitator, had brought the sides closer to a comprehensive political settlement. The President of the Russian Federation also welcomed the restoration of direct contacts between representatives of the parties in the conflict, which in his opinion could help bring the negotiation process to a successful conclusion. The search for mutually acceptable agreements should be conducted with due consideration for relevant Security Council resolutions, OSCE documents and the provisions of the documents on the conflict in Abkhazia that were collectively drafted and adopted by CIS at Almaty and Minsk. Both Presidents called upon the member States of CIS to strictly observe its decisions of 19 January 1996 regarding Abkhazia. They furthermore considered the implementation of decisive new measures to ensure the organized return of refugees and displaced persons to their domiciles, a task which they considered urgent and of paramount importance.

15. The Abkhaz authorities reacted negatively to the subsequent enforcement measures taken by the Russian authorities to implement the January decisions of the Council of Heads of State of CIS. A statement issued by the "Government of

the Republic of Abkhazia" on 21 March 1996 argued that "far-fetched pretexts" were being used to find ways to toughen the blockade. However, at a time when there were no constitutional ties between Abkhazia and Georgia, which in the Abkhaz view is confirmed by the two sides' Declaration of 4 April 1994 "on measures for a political settlement of the Georgian/Abkhaz conflict", agreements or treaties concluded with Georgia that affected Abkhazia's interests could not be legally binding in Abkhazia. The Abkhaz "Parliament" was convened in a special session on 22 March 1996.

16. Following tension in the port of Sukhumi on 23 March 1996 because of the implementation of the enforcement measures, consultations took place between the commanders of the Russian border troops and the Abkhaz leadership and calm was eventually restored. Mr. Ardzinba, in a statement dated 27 March 1996, said that if the enforcement measures agreed upon between the Russian Federation and Georgia continued, he would hold a referendum on the question of whom the people of Abkhazia would prefer to have ties with: Georgia or the Russian Federation. He also stated that, meanwhile, the Abkhaz side would not participate in any negotiations with Georgia on the political settlement of the conflict. The Secretariat has been informed, however, that Abkhaz "Prime Minister" Gagulia has held talks in Moscow with Foreign Minister Primakov and other senior government officials in the first week of April 1996.

III. HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

17. The humanitarian situation continues to be difficult. In February 1996, the United Nations and non-governmental organizations, with representatives from donor Governments, conducted a mission to Georgia within the context of a humanitarian needs assessment for Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. The findings for the three countries were discussed by humanitarian partners and government authorities of the three countries at a meeting organized by the United Nations at Tbilisi on 5 and 6 March 1996. Regarding Georgia, the meeting expressed the view that humanitarian needs were generally covered. However it was necessary to target assistance better to ensure that those who were marginalized and most vulnerable received it. In addition, as the Government of Georgia continued to introduce a series of reform measures, it might have, in the short run, led to new humanitarian needs for vulnerable groups, for example, those on fixed government incomes and/or pensions. Humanitarian agencies would need to monitor their situation closely and provide assistance as needed.

18. In Abkhazia, the food situation has not seriously deteriorated. The 19 January decision of the Council of Heads of States of CIS does not appear to have had much effect on the availability of essential goods. At Gali, food continues to arrive from across the Inguri River to supplement the local market, though traders have to pay high taxes and a passage fee is levied by the Abkhaz border guards.

A. Situation of refugees and displaced persons

19. The situation of displaced persons has not changed significantly during the reporting period. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has reported that movements in both directions across the Inguri River continue, both at the official and at the unofficial crossing points. UNHCR has distributed construction materials to repair destroyed houses in the village of Labra in Ochamchira district. It has designed a programme for repairing 23 schools in the Gali region, for the further rehabilitation of the Gali hospital and for income-generating projects.

20. UNHCR currently has two international staff based at Gali. This permits close project control, daily liaison with UNOMIG, non-governmental organizations and the local population.

B. Human rights

21. As part of my effort to find ways of improving the observance of human rights in the region, my Special Envoy and his Deputy have initiated consultations with the Abkhaz authorities on a programme for the protection and promotion of human rights in Abkhazia. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. Ayala Lasso, welcomed this initiative and sent a mission to Sukhumi on 21-24 February 1996. I am pleased to report that the Abkhaz authorities have agreed with the proposed programme, which is to be carried out by the High Commissioner in cooperation with OSCE. The text of the programme is attached (see annex I).

IV. OPERATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN GEORGIA

22. During the period covered by the present report, UNOMIG continued to fulfil the tasks mandated by the Security Council, operating in parts of the security and restricted weapons zones and the Kodori valley. The Head of Mission and Deputy Special Envoy operates at my request from both Tbilisi and Sukhumi, and the Chief Military Observer, Major-General Per Källström (Sweden), is based at Sukhumi. The Mission continues at its full authorized strength of 136 military observers drawn from 23 countries (see annex II), although the actual number on the ground may at times vary owing to rotations.

23. The deployment of UNOMIG remains as described in my report of 2 January 1996 (S/1996/5, para. 17). The main headquarters is at Sukhumi, the administrative headquarters is at Pitsunda, and there are two sector headquarters at Gali and Zugdidi, which have 54 and 39 military observers respectively (see attached map). There are four military observers at Tbilisi, three of whom are attached to the liaison office and one to the air operations office.

24. The concept of operations remains as previously reported, except for the establishment of one additional team base in each of the two sectors. Thus, the mission now has seven team bases (four in the Gali sector, at Inguri Ges,

Otobaya, Zemo-Bargevi and Gali; and three in the Zugdidi sector, at Dzvari, Darcheli and Zugdidi). These bases were designed to provide a constant presence in sensitive areas and enable UNOMIG to cooperate closely with the CIS peace-keeping force.

25. However, because of the threat posed by mines in the security and restricted weapons zones on the north side of the Inguri River (see para. 34 below), UNOMIG has temporarily suspended its vehicle patrols in the area. Patrolling along main roads in the security zone is conducted only when the CIS peace-keeping force declares the roads clear of mines. These temporary movement restrictions will keep the observers out of harm's way but will, in effect, prevent them from implementing their mandate fully until new security arrangements are put in place. There is so far no clear evidence as to who is planting these mines. It is usually the responsibility of the authorities on whose territory a peace-keeping operation is deployed to ensure that a suitable environment exists for unarmed United Nations observers to carry out their duties. The situation, however, is complicated. The Georgian authorities are not present in the Gali sector and the Abkhaz authorities, who themselves are the victims of mine incidents, have little control over the area and do not have any meaningful mine-clearing capability. Therefore, although UNOMIG is exploring with both sides ways of enhancing the Mission's safety, it is doubtful that concrete action can be taken by them any time soon. UNOMIG is also exploring measures with the CIS peace-keeping force that could improve the safety of UNOMIG personnel in the areas where the force is deployed. In the meantime, a team of demining experts is being sent to the area in order to train the observers in mine awareness and on the use of mine-detection equipment.

26. The Kodori valley team base at Azhara, which was closed for the winter on 4 December 1995 (see S/1996/5, para. 19), should be reopened by mid-April. In the meantime, UNOMIG has been patrolling the western part of the valley on a daily basis and the observers have had frequent meetings with CIS peace-keeping force and Abkhaz Army units operating in the valley. They also have had a number of meetings with the local administration.

27. A civilian-pattern aircraft is being made available to UNOMIG by the Government of Switzerland at no cost to the United Nations. The aircraft, which should soon become operational, will enhance the Mission's efficiency by facilitating the movement of cargo and personnel into and out of its area of responsibility. It will also be used for medical evacuation.

28. The Government of Switzerland has also recently contributed an amount of 400,000 Swiss francs to UNOMIG. The Government of the Republic of Korea has contributed an amount of $20,000 for the voluntary fund mentioned in paragraph 10 of Security Council resolution 937 (1994) of 21 July 1994 and has expressed the wish that this contribution be applied towards the implementation of the Agreement on a Cease-fire and Separation of Forces signed by the Georgian and Abkhaz authorities in Moscow on 14 May 1994, particularly towards enhancing the safety of UNOMIG personnel.

29. Cooperation and communication with the Government of Georgia and the Abkhaz authorities have remained satisfactory. There are now weekly meetings, chaired by UNOMIG, between the Georgian police and the Abkhaz militia, during which

issues related to general security in the security and restricted weapons zones on the Abkhaz side of the Inguri River are discussed.

30. The weekly quadripartite meetings chaired by the CIS peace-keeping force continue to take place, following their resumption in October 1995 after a six-month interruption (see S/1996/5, para. 22). They are attended by the Chief of Staff of the CIS peace-keeping force, the Chief Military Observer of UNOMIG and representatives of the Gali and Zugdidi local administrations. Since the establishment of the weekly meetings between the Georgian police and the Abkhaz militia referred to above, the quadripartite meetings have dealt mainly with administrative matters and, occasionally, with security, hostage exchange and humanitarian issues.

31. UNOMIG has continued to cooperate with UNHCR and with international and non-governmental organizations. Biweekly formal meetings are held during which matters of mutual concern, including security, are discussed.

V. SITUATION ON THE GROUND

A. General

32. During the reporting period, the situation in the UNOMIG area of responsibility remained unsettled and tense and there was an escalation of violence in the Gali sector. One especially serious incident occurred on 5 January 1996, when eight members of a Georgian family were murdered. The perpetrators of this crime have not been found. There has also been a large number of looting incidents in villages in the vicinity of the Gali canal. As already reported, such lootings are often carried out by Abkhaz military personnel manning checkpoints along the canal. Although the Abkhaz army has made efforts to improve the situation, the local population remains suspicious of its soldiers. There have also been a number of common crime incidents in other parts of the security and restricted weapons zones north of the Inguri River.

33. Following a series of hostage-taking incidents that began in early February, UNOMIG initiated negotiations between the Georgian and Abkhaz sides to try to resolve the problem. The two sides have now agreed to exchange all currently held hostages and to consider kidnapping a crime whose authors will be arrested and prosecuted. During the month of March, UNOMIG assisted in the exchange of 13 hostages - 11 held by the Abkhaz side and two by the Georgian side. Regrettably, one of the Georgian hostages was killed by private persons in Abkhazia. The Mission is continuing its efforts to bring this problem to an end.

34. There were six road mine incidents during the reporting period. In one of these, on 9 March 1996, a UNOMIG patrol vehicle drove onto an anti-tank mine in the Gali sector in the restricted weapons zone, instantly killing the driver, Lt. Col. Muhammed Hussain of Bangladesh. The vehicle's two other passengers - a Hungarian military observer and a local interpreter - also suffered injuries in the incident. The other incidents caused the death of one Abkhaz army officer and that of three local civilians. On 3 April 1996 the CIS peace-keeping force

found a newly laid anti-tank mine on a road in the Gali sector in the security zone that is used daily by UNOMIG and the force. As mentioned above, there is so far no clear evidence as to who planted these mines.

35. The continuing and pervasive lawlessness in the security and restricted weapons zones in the Gali Sector is having a negative effect on the ability of UNOMIG to meet its mandated tasks. Since my report of 2 January 1996 (S/1996/5), there have been three incidents in the Gali sector where UNOMIG personnel were robbed at gunpoint. Joint patrols with the CIS peace-keeping force north of the Gali canal, which were agreed upon, should reduce the frequency of such incidents and enhance the safety of the observers, once the current movement restrictions end.

36. Council members will recall that, in order to reduce ambiguity to the minimum, UNOMIG has taken the provision of the Moscow agreement of 14 May 1994 relating to the presence of armed forces in the security zone to mean that no member of the armed forces of either side, with or without a weapon and in or out of uniform, is authorized to be present in the security zone. Accordingly, the presence of such a member in the zone is deemed to constitute a violation of the agreement (see S/1996/5, para. 27). During the reporting period, there were 15 such violations. These violations included the presence in Zugdidi of a Georgian army recruiting office and that of a signals unit that supports the Chief Military Observer of the Government of Georgia. In addition, a main battle tank was deployed in late February for almost two weeks near the village of Kulovi, in the restricted weapons zone on the Georgian side of the Inguri River. The Government of Georgia has not responded to UNOMIG protests of some of these violations. The rest concern army personnel entering the security zone on both sides of the Inguri River, in many cases to visit their families while on leave.

B. Security and restricted weapons zones

37. The security and restricted weapons zones on each side of the Inguri River are affected by two different sets of problems. In the Gali sector, the main problem is general lawlessness and the commission of criminal acts against the local population. The perpetrators of these acts are rarely caught and are often not even sought by the authorities, usually because of lack of resources. In the Zugdidi sector, the main issue is tension among the internally displaced persons who are anxious to return to their homes on the other bank of the river but are unwilling to do so because of concerns about their security.

38. As mentioned in my previous report (S/1996/5, para. 29), the Abkhaz side has responded partially to the Mission's protest concerning the difficulties it has encountered in gaining access to the Ochamchira heavy-weapons storage site by providing UNOMIG with a document outlining the location and condition of all pieces of equipment. The Georgian response, however, is still awaited.

C. Kodori valley

39. Owing to the temporary closure of the Azhara team base, UNOMIG lacks reliable information about the situation in the Kodori valley. However, the Mission has not been told of any incident in the area and its meetings with the local administration indicate that conditions there are stable. None the less, the Svanetians remain suspicious of the Abkhaz Army.

VI. COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN GEORGIA AND THE COLLECTIVE PEACE-KEEPING FORCE OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES

40. Cooperation between UNOMIG and the CIS peace-keeping force continues to be satisfactory at all levels. Regular meetings are held to discuss issues of mutual concern. Cooperation in the Gali sector has been particularly good, with an increase in joint patrolling which is having positive operational results. Furthermore, the force provided the Mission with much-needed assistance during the mine incident of 9 March 1996 described in paragraph 34 above.

VII. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS

41. Emergency relief and humanitarian aid continue to be the predominant modes of United Nations assistance and other donors' support to Georgia. At the same time, there is increasing awareness of the need to support transitional activities as Georgia moves into a post-emergency phase. This was recently reconfirmed at the appeal meeting (organized by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs) in March 1996, where donors, United Nations agencies, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and government officials from Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia met to discuss humanitarian needs in the region.

42. However, there is a wide range of other development initiatives. The Bretton Woods institutions, the European Union, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and bilateral donors are assisting Georgia to evolve from its current status of a recipient of humanitarian aid into a self-reliant State.

43. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has continued to provide stand-by arrangements and in particular has enhanced its structural adjustment facility for Georgia. Technical assistance provided by IMF, the World Bank and bilateral donors covers the fields of banking, taxation and support for the lari, which became the sole currency in Georgia since its introduction on 2 October 1995 and has maintained its stability.

44. As for other United Nations specialized agencies and programmes, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization and the World Food Programme are providing operational support for basic social services that would normally be provided by the Government. UNICEF has begun to undertake a number of projects in the field of public health, including an expanded programme of immunization in cooperation with the Georgian Ministry of Health. This support also involves capacity-building in the education, health and family planning sectors. UNDP, the Economic Commission for Europe, the United Nations

Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Environment Programme are providing the Government of Georgia with policy advice for capacity-building in the economic and social sectors. Current UNDP programmes include an aid coordination initiative aimed at helping government authorities to mobilize resources, create systems and train staff in aid management and coordination mechanisms. UNDP is also funding projects in public administration, democratization assistance to Parliament (ombudsman system), environment, agriculture (credit union with the support of the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Bank), energy, audit and management information system, statistics, including the preparation of national human development reports and, together with UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration, migration services.

VIII. OBSERVATIONS

45. Despite many months of vigorous efforts and intensive negotiations by the Russian Federation, in its capacity as facilitator, neither side has signed the draft protocol on the principal elements of a settlement of this conflict, mainly because of continued disagreement over the political status of Abkhazia. While this stalemate continues, there can be no significant improvement in the situation of displaced persons and refugees, whose plight is a cause of great concern.

46. The Abkhaz leadership now recognizes that Abkhazia will be part of a single Georgian State within the boundaries of the former Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic as at 21 December 1991. It also agrees that the State should be "federative" in nature. But pronounced differences remain over the constitutional definition of the Georgian State. While the Georgian side wants the draft protocol to reflect that Georgia is one single federal State within which Abkhazia enjoys certain state powers and rights, the Abkhaz side demands that the draft protocol describe the State as a union which came about as the result of a treaty between two subjects of equal status under international law.

47. Even if the draft protocol is signed in the near future, it seems unlikely that it will clearly define the political status of Abkhazia. However, it would serve as a framework for further negotiations and expert discussions not only on constitutional issues, but in other areas such as economic matters, banking, finance, transport, communications, public policy (police, administration of justice, education), social affairs and military questions.

48. It is in this planning for the implementation phase that I see an important role for the United Nations, especially as both sides, and the Russian Federation in its capacity as facilitator, have recently asked my Special Envoy to strengthen the Organization's role in the search for a comprehensive settlement. Such involvement will be closely synchronized with the efforts of the Russian Federation, in its capacity as facilitator, and those of OSCE.

49. I should like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of Switzerland for making a generous contribution to UNOMIG and for donating the services of a civilian aircraft to the Mission. I should also like to thank the

Government of the Republic of Korea for contributing to the voluntary fund established under Security Council resolution 937 (1994).

50. Finally, I thank my Special Envoy, Ambassador Edouard Brunner, his Deputy and the Head of Mission of UNOMIG, Mr. Liviu Bota, the Chief Military Observer, Major-General Per Källström, and all the military and civilian personnel under their command, for their dedication and perseverance in carrying out, under difficult conditions, the tasks entrusted to them by the Security Council.

Annex I

Programme for the protection and promotion of human rights in Abkhazia

1. Objectives

(a) Promoting respect for human rights;

(b) Protecting human rights of the population of Abkhazia in the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

(c) Contributing to a safe and dignified return of refugees and internally displaced persons through improvement of the human rights situation;

(d) Reporting on human rights developments in conformity with United Nations and OSCE practices.

2. Mechanisms of implementation

(a) Monitoring the human rights situation in Abkhazia, principally for the purpose of remedy and prevention of possible human rights violations;

(b) Establishing direct contacts with competent authorities in Abkhazia and cooperating with them in taking measures to prevent and redress human rights violations;

(c) Reporting to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (and through him to the United Nations Secretary-General), as well as to the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, about the human rights situation;

(d) Providing technical assistance for the strengthening of local capacities to protect human rights;

(e) Developing human rights education;

(f) Contributing to the development of human rights structures in civil society (non-governmental organizations, grass-roots initiatives).

3. Projects and activities

(a) Providing advisory services on the drafting of laws and information on laws and legal systems in various other countries;

(b) Providing seminars and expertise for law enforcement officials, including police and prison officials;

(c) Strengthening the independence of the judiciary and the protection of human rights through seminars and the provision of expertise for judges, lawyers and procurators;

(d) Promoting awareness of international human rights standards and procedures through translation of relevant documents into Abkhaz and Russian in order to publish and disseminate them;

(e) Developing human rights education programmes for school-children and students in Abkhazia by providing experts, seminars and informational material;

(f) Providing fellowships for the population of Abkhazia to increase expertise in international human rights law;

(g) Sponsoring the participation of people from Abkhazia in international human rights seminars and conferences;

(h) Providing assistance to the Law Faculty of Abkhaz State University in the field of human rights education, including criminal law, criminal procedure and advocacy.

4. Organizational framework

(a) The implementation of the human rights programme will be coordinated by a local Office that will be established at Sukhumi;

(b) The Office at Sukhumi will be established by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

(c) A limited number of experienced United Nations and OSCE international staff (2-3 persons) will be deployed to the office;

(d) In addition, local staff will be recruited as needed, and will include secretaries, drivers and support staff.

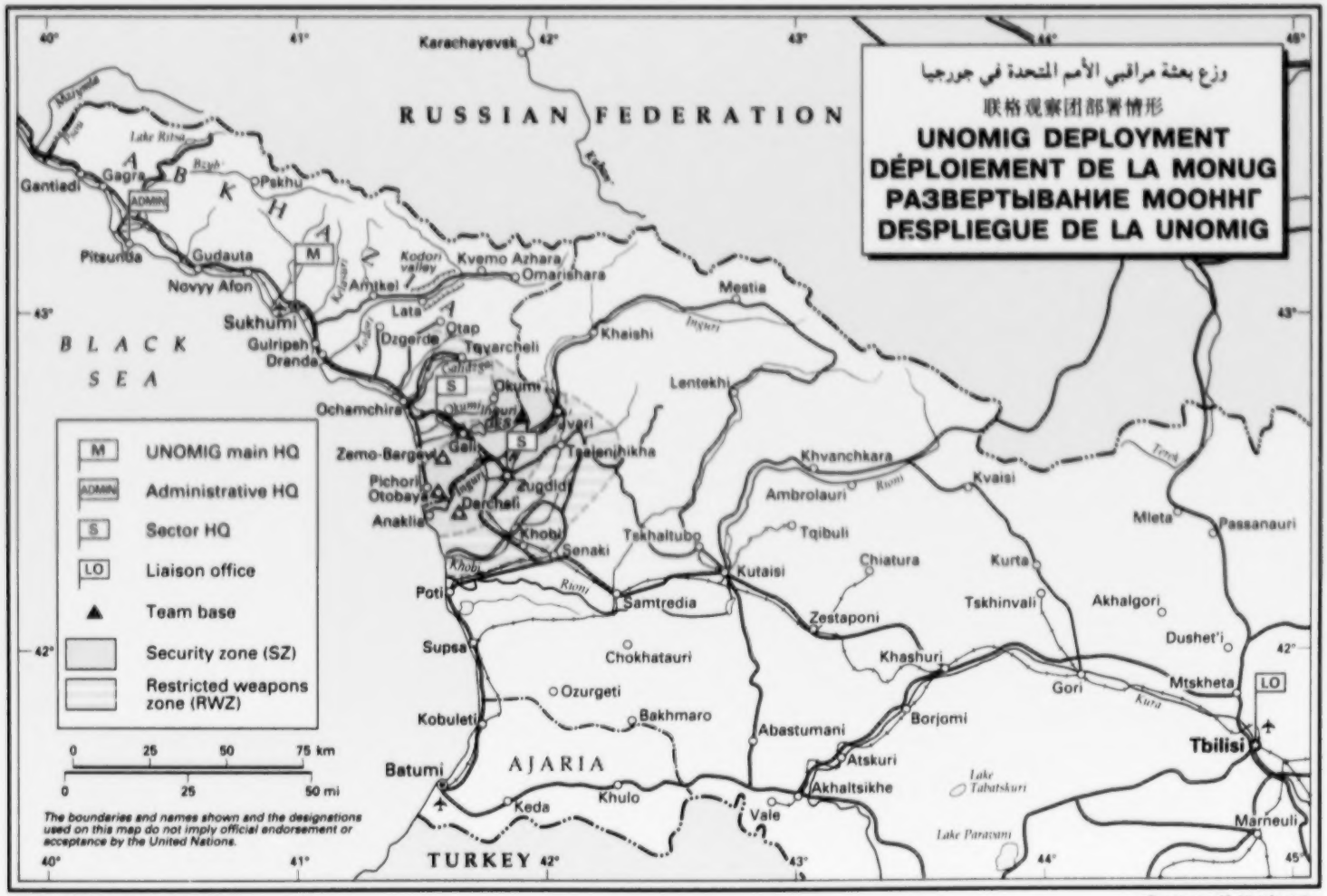
Annex II

Composition of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia at 27 March 1996

Country	Military Observers
Albania	1
Austria	4
Bangladesh	10
Cuba	4
Czech Republic	5
Denmark	5
Egypt	5
France	5
Germany	10
Greece	- a/
Hungary	7
Indonesia	6
Jordan	8
Pakistan	8
Poland	5
Republic of Korea	6
Russian Federation	3
Sweden	11
Switzerland	6
Turkey	5
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	10
United States of America	4
Uruguay	4
Total	132 b/

a/ Rotation under way.

b/ The total number of military observers may vary owing to rotations.



Map No. 3837 Rev. 8 UNITED NATIONS
April 1996

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